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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
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First session
New York, 31 January-11 February 1994
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

ANALYSIS OF THE CORE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE SUMMIT AND POLICY MEASURES TO ATTAIN ITS OBJECTIVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/92

Note verbale dated 19 January 1994 from the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the forthcoming session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in New York from 31 January to 11 February 1994, has the honour to request that the report adopted at the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs, held in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, from 28 June to 2 July 1993 (see annex), be issued as an official document for the session of the Preparatory Committee.

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* A/CONF.166/PC/5.

Annex

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS – UNITED NATIONS EUROPEAN REGION –

Bratislava, Slovak Republic
June 28 – July 2, 1993

FINAL REPORT

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH
AFFILIATED TO THE UNITED NATIONS

EUROPÄISCHES ZENTRUM FÜR WOHLFAHRTSPOLITIK UND SOZIALFORSCHUNG
IN ZUSAMMENARBEIT MIT DEN VEREINTEN NATIONEN

CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE RECHERCHE EN POLITIQUE SOCIALE
AFFILIÉ AUX NATIONS UNIES

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EUROPEAN CENTRE
European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research
Berggasse 17
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on behalf of the
Conference of European Ministers
Responsible for Social Affairs
– United Nations European Region –
Bratislava, Slovak Republic
June 28 – July 2, 1993

Layout: Michael Eigner

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs of the United Nations European Region was held in Bratislava from June 28 to July 2, 1993 at the generous invitation of the Government of the Slovak Republic, in cooperation with the United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, affiliated to the United Nations.

2. On the basis of the proposals of the Bureau of the previous Ministerial Conference which met in Warsaw in May 1989 and, subsequently, in Helsinki in January 1991, the initiative to convene the third Conference had been originally taken by the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, in pursuance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 42/125 of December 1987 on the United Nations Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes, which called for holding regional conferences to facilitate the sharing of experience to explore common solutions to existing and emerging social problems and to take appropriate remedial measures. The proposal to hold the Bratislava Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs was welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/90.

3. In view of the profound transformations in Central and Eastern Europe since the previous Conference, the proposed substantive agenda for the Conference stressed, in particular, the important aspects of monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, in a regional context, as a comprehensive United Nations programme in the field of social development.

4. The main Report for the Conference, *Welfare in a Civil Society*, had been entrusted to the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research at Vienna, affiliated to the United Nations. Financial and in-kind support for its preparation was offered by the Governments of Canada, Germany and Spain.

II. APPLYING THE UNITED NATIONS GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO STRENGTHEN CIVIL SOCIETY

5. The short period since the convening of the previous Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs, at Warsaw in April 1987, has been a time of profound and unprecedented change in the region. While the previous period of confrontation between opposing ideologies has subsided, as a result of economic uncertainties new challenges have arisen for social development in the region. The following conclusions and recommendations are proposed, in full awareness of the continuing state of fluctuation many countries face and with an acknowledgement of the fundamental importance of basic human rights, democracy, peace and prosperity as prerequisites for social development and the strengthening of civil society in the European region.

A. *The "Welfare Mix"*

6. Human welfare is seen as the outcome of complex interactions among several complementary sectors in society, *inter alia*, government, the private sector, voluntary organizations and families or communities; overall welfare is generated in varying mixes by all these sectors of society. Because of widely diverging national contexts and continuous changes within societies, welfare mixes vary widely and need to be constantly re-evaluated, reorganized, reformed and improved. Determining an optimal division of responsibility among government and public agencies, private businesses, non-governmental organizations and families or communities is a fundamental task of managing the new, pluralist welfare mix.

7. There are sectors and actors which contribute to the provision of welfare but receive less attention. Governments should encourage these sectors and recognize the benefits to be obtained from supporting their abilities to contribute to civil society. They include more unconventional non-governmental organizations such as interest and advocacy organizations

for civil and human rights of disadvantaged groups, professional organizations, charitable and philanthropic associations or organized popular movements; representatives of the "informal sector" such as self-help groups, mutual aid networks, social clubs, communitarian groups and social movements; private sector businesses specializing in care work and social services; intermediaries between markets and the "third sector" such as consumer cooperatives; and the primary social support systems such as private households, families, kinship groups and neighbourhood networks.

8. Governments should recognize that, although they will maintain overall responsibility for social welfare policies and programmes, they will no longer function as exclusive providers of social services. They should define clearly the division of responsibilities and functions both between different levels of national, regional and local government and between different sectors composing the "welfare mix"; set priorities and standards; and determine the broad principles relating to coverage and eligibility.

9. In the context of the evolving concept of a "welfare mix", Governments are invited to consider that:

a) developing partnerships with "unconventional" actors such as informal groups will require contact and interaction at their (local) level and should be encouraged as a means to stimulate grass-roots participation;

b) decentralizing decision-making and sharing with other actors the responsibility for providing social services will require that central government concentrates more on providing training and support to those organizations delivering services;

c) social workers, employees of non-governmental organizations, volunteers and other actors involved in providing services will require up-dated and appropriate training on a continuing basis; in particular, the changing context of social welfare, which seeks not just to provide assistance but also to enable self-help, will require that workers develop new qualifications;

d) the standards and qualifications established by and for organizations and professional associations need to be defined and regulated;

e) in order to ensure an appropriate and satisfactory "welfare mix", Governments should strive for flexibility in administration and operations;

f) it is necessary to ensure that voluntary and household work, both productive and reproductive, is recognized and valued; in particular informal care work for children, the elderly and the disabled – which takes place within families or informal networks – should receive greater attention, appreciation and training.

B. Gender and Generational Contracts in the Family and in Society

10. Policy-makers, legislators and government officials should be aware of the fact that social policy is, in general, not neutral with respect to gender or generation. Advancement of rights for women, the elderly and children might affect the interests not just of the traditionally predominant groups in society, but also of the respective other groups. This raises the problem of establishing new gender and generational contracts.

11. In the context of the evolving concept of a "gender contract", Governments are invited to consider the necessity to:

a) adopt measures and legal protection to counteract social exclusion and discrimination of women in paid employment, social security, political life and civic affairs;

b) recognize that despite existing legal protection, de facto discrimination against women often continues; Governments should further counteract discrimination through education and measures of positive action;

c) enable women and men to balance better their family and professional lives and responsibilities through, *inter alia*, reor-

ganizing working and opening hours (of shops and services) more flexibly, providing daily child care facilities and assistance with care for the elderly;

d) encourage men to assume fuller responsibility for family life and domestic work by gearing working conditions, civil law and social policy legislation towards this reintegration and by stressing "family life education".

12. It is increasingly recognized that extended periods of education for the young and increasing longevity among the elderly are positive achievements of social development. On the other hand, these achievements have resulted, for the individual, in lengthening the periods of the lifespan when not contributing to social security, resulting in an increasing ratio of the dependent to the productive population within societies. A dilemma has arisen for the individual seeking to balance the time devoted to productive work with the time available for family or leisure activities, and a similar dilemma has arisen for societies faced with the need to support an increasing percentage of dependent populations.

13. In the context of the evolving concept of a "generation contract", Governments are invited to:

a) recognize that contracts exist not merely between two, but between three generations, namely, the elderly, the "productive" population and children;

b) create an environment which allows more flexibility to individuals to distribute the time dedicated to education, paid work, family responsibilities and leisure time over the course of their lives;

c) recognize children as human beings with their own rights and responsibilities, and further recognize the activities of children and the elderly as active contributions to society.

14. With a view to the specific concerns of the elderly, the positive changes are reflected in their increasing material well-being and their continued active participation in society. On the other hand, it is also to be noted

that phenomena of exclusion and marginalization persist, in particular concerning the forced exclusion of older workers from the workforce, and with special reference to the chronically ill and the frail elderly. With a view to the concerns of the latter groups, it is recommended that Governments pay attention to their specific needs, *inter alia*, by supporting the providers of care to the elderly and by securing, to the extent possible, their continued care in familiar environments.

15. With a view to the specific concerns of women and children, Governments are invited to implement the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and to give appropriate attention to the three aspects contained in the convention: protection, provision and participation. In the context of children living in poverty, Governments should consider the positive results to be obtained from preventive interventions in early childhood and develop appropriate educational programmes, health care, family support services and child or family allowances.

C. Promoting Social Integration

16. Indications of social exclusion, such as legal or social discrimination, gender or ethnic segregation, negative attitudes towards immigrants and refugees, poverty and homelessness, or, because of economic recession, setbacks to progress achieved for ageing and disabled persons can be observed to an increasing extent throughout the region. Many phenomena of social exclusion are caused by or related to unemployment: among them are crime, violence, or substance abuse. When people are hindered from participating to their satisfaction in activities which are meaningful to them, they are at risk of being excluded from society, and their very exclusion endangers the foundations of modern, democratic society as a whole. Thus, social integration is essential for all members of society and is not merely a concern of the socially excluded.

17. Access to meaningful and productive employment is a vital element for individual integration, and therefore has a social as well as an economic value. Efforts to increase possibilities for productive employment, in particular for people with disabilities, and to reduce unemployment or underemployment should not aim merely to achieve arbitrary targets but must be based on a reappraisal of the values and concepts underlying notions of gainful employment. In this context, Governments are invited to consider the negative social consequences of high and long-term unemployment for individuals, families and communities.

18. In spite of generally increasing prosperity and expanding provision of social services in the region in the postwar period, there remain pockets of poverty and deprivation in even the wealthiest societies. In recent years, all countries of the region have confronted new political, economic and social challenges which have significantly altered individual and societal prospects for a secure future. Thus, all countries of the region may be said to be "in transition", although clearly the countries of Central and Eastern Europe face fundamental changes and problems including a deep socio-economic crisis and severe ethnic strife, sometimes leading to armed conflict. Action to promote social integration in these countries is essential, and there remains an acute need for immediate provision of social safety nets to those groups rendered particularly vulnerable or disadvantaged during this period of transition.

19. European societies have become increasingly multicultural as a result of the freer flow of people across borders, continuing migration for economic reasons and family reunions, and increasing arrivals of refugees fleeing political oppression and conflict. This phenomenon has the potential to greatly enrich receiving societies, but may equally lead to greater misunderstanding, confrontation and anxiety. There is also concern that increasingly negative reactions by host populations to rising numbers of foreigners poses a threat to long-term immigrants and ethnic minorities within those countries. Government social policy should contribute to improving relations between native and immigrant populations. In this context, the Conference welcomes the recommendations of the

European Population Conference organized at Geneva in March 1993 and in particular those relating to integration.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Preparations for the World Summit for Social Development

20. The Conference welcomes the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to convene the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen (Denmark) in 1995, with the core issues to be addressed, i.e. the enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups, the alleviation and reduction of poverty, and the expansion of productive employment. The Conference supports the activities of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit and requests the Government of the Republic of Slovakia to submit the report to the Preparatory Committee at its first substantive session in January 1994. In addition, the background document for the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs, *Welfare in a Civil Society*, should be provided to the Preparatory Committee for information.

B. International Year of the Family

21. The Conference welcomes the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to declare 1994 the International Year of the Family and supports the concepts contained in the "Declaration of Valetta" emanating from the United Nations Europe and North America Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family, held at Valetta (Malta) in April, 1993.

22. In addition, the conclusions and recommendations concerning the "gender and generational contracts in the family and in society" contained in the present report should be considered a further substantive contribution to preparations for the International Year of the Family. Governments

of the region are encouraged to take appropriate action to ensure adequate preparations for the Year and to develop and implement family policies which are appropriate to national contexts.

C. Regional Cooperation

23. In order to encourage and support cooperation in the fields of social welfare and social development throughout the United Nations European region – a process which has been encouraged and strengthened by the convening of three ministerial conferences (The Hague in 1972, Warsaw in 1987 and Bratislava in 1993) – and acknowledging that primary responsibility remains at the national level, the Conference recommends that Governments consider the following proposals:

a) There is a need for a multilateral European forum, at the political level, concerned with questions of social policy and social development. In this connection, the roles and responsibilities of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and affiliated institutions at the regional level should be clarified and their activities strengthened; in particular, consideration should be given to expanding the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe to include matters of social policy and social development, and/or to integrate these issues within its overall programme priorities. Furthermore, taking into account the activities of the regional intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, *inter alia*, the Council of Europe, the Commission of the European Community, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, emphasis should be given to increasing interaction among these organizations in the social and economic fields to strengthen their respective activities and to avoid duplication of efforts.

b) The exchange of information and expertise should be promoted throughout the region, *inter alia*, through the strengthening of

networks among governmental and non-governmental organizations, the collection and dissemination of relevant data and the sharing of innovative and successful policies and programmes, with particular attention to the needs of the less developed countries of the region. In this connection, and recalling the decision of the Commission for Social Development at its 33rd session (Vienna, February 1993), the Conference requests the Economic Commission for Europe to bring to the attention of the Conference of European Statisticians the proposal to create an indicator system in the area of social development to help facilitate mechanisms for sharing of information to foster sustainable development; such an indicator system would assist the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to assess progress made by states parties to the covenant in the realization of those rights; the value of internationally comparable social data should be stressed.

c) Institutionalized meeting places for regional and international research, discussion and cooperation provide a useful service and should be supported. The Conference notes with appreciation the activities of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research and encourages the future work of the Bratislava International Centre for Family Studies.

d) To ensure proper monitoring of the "welfare mix", thorough and appropriate evaluation of national policies and a systematic assessment of social programmes should be encouraged in order to ensure a more rational and efficient use of all social spending.

e) In an effort to minimize social dislocations during the transition to market economies and to ensure the provision of social safety nets, development of bi- or multilateral anti-poverty programmes for countries of Central and Eastern Europe could be encouraged.

f) The mechanism to ensure ongoing coordination during the period between Conferences of UN-European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs should be formalized. The members of the Bureau of this Conference are requested to maintain contacts on a regular basis. Their tasks could include:

i) ensuring that relevant information is gathered and circulated;

ii) evaluating the implementation of conference recommendations;

iii) organizing interim and follow-up activities;

iv) to seek appropriate assistance for the planning of future conferences.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

A. *Opening of the Conference*

24. A message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations was read to the Conference. The Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to the Slovak Republic for making social policy issues the subject of the first major international conference to be held in the capital of this newly independent state. He referred to the profound changes that have taken place in the world since the First International Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs, convened by the United Nations in New York, in 1968. The Secretary-General further recalled the revolutionary transformations in Europe since 1987, when the United Nations convened a global forum of policy- and decision-makers which represented a significant step in the evolution of comprehensive and integrated social policies. While these transformations have opened up exciting new opportunities, ethnic and religious animosities have exploded with devastating consequences, resulting in armed conflicts that could sow the seeds of distrust for generations to come. Crime, health issues, environmental problems and economic uncertainty further exacerbated tensions in the

region. In this situation, the need for a humanistic and encompassing vision of social policy was especially compelling.

The framework for such a comprehensive vision was coming into focus. Thus, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development has redefined the planetary dimensions of environmental issues and the need for global solutions. The World Conference on Human Rights has highlighted human rights as a fundamental prerequisite for peace, development, and progress. The International Year of the Family, to be observed in 1994, would underscore the importance of the family in integrating social, economic, environmental, and human rights issues. And in 1995, the World Summit for Social Development would emphasize the importance of social concerns and seek to integrate the social dimension into the evolving global framework.

25. In the official opening address of the Conference, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Vladímir Meciar, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the people and Government of Slovakia which, he pointed out, was one of the youngest nations in the world and emblematic of the massive changes unfolding throughout the world. He noted that these transformations required new and appropriate arrangements, international agreement, consensus and commitments. He stressed the need for forward working approaches, focused on the future and on the challenges of post-industrial society in the next millenium. In respect to the social sphere, he noted that the level of social development could either set limits on progress or be an impetus to change. In this regard, he emphasized that important foundations were already in place, including the European Social Charter and the Covenants on Human Rights. Despite this basic strength, serious problems limited progress, such as the global economic recession. In the Slovak Republic, the previous under-investment in such areas as education, health care and environmentally sensitive development has created a form of social deficit which would have to be overcome. He emphasized that social development could not occur in isolation from that in political, economic and other spheres. Future and current challenges would require a harmonized approach bringing various

sectors into complementary and unified effort, including such areas as: industry, education, health care, insurance, transportation and other services. Similarly, all sectors of society would have to act in partnership, involving: citizens, employers, trade-unions and others with a stake and role in transformative change. Achieving a balanced approach to development would require the reconciliation of such issues as minimum wage protection and market competitiveness, economic development and environmental protection, fiscal restraint and the investments required in social and economic development. Social protections were needed which should not present disincentives to self-sufficiency or impair self-help. The interventions of states should not erode the motivation of citizens to achieve a better quality of life and seek out solutions to social problems.

B. Attendance

26. The Conference was attended by 143 participants, including representatives from 37 member states of the Economic Commission for Europe, observers from other states and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. A list of participants is given in Annex I of this report.

C. Election of Officers

27. During its first and second session, the Conference elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:	Ms Olga Keltosova (Slovakia)
Vice-Presidents:	Ms Olga Dargel (Belarus)
	Mr Carl-Anders Ifvarsson (Sweden)
	Mr Cueli C. Galan (Spain)
Rapporteur:	Mr Volker Berger (Germany)

28. At its first session, the Conference also approved its organization of work and established a Committee of the Whole to examine in detail the substantive items of the agenda and work out recommendations. It appointed Mr Pierre Dionne of Canada as its Chairman, on the understanding that a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur would subsequently be elected by the Committee to constitute the Bureau of the Committee of the Whole.

29. It was further agreed that the Bureau of the Committee of the Whole should be also considered members of the Bureau of the Conference. Consequently, Mr Jozsef Meszaros (Hungary) was elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee and Mr Gerard van Rienen (Netherlands), Rapporteur.

D. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work

30. The Conference adopted the following agenda:

i) Opening of the Conference.
ii) Election of the President.
iii) Adoption of the Rules of Procedure.
iv) Election of Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur.
v) Adoption of the agenda and the organization of work.
vi) Social policy in the European region in the context of the United Nations Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes and the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development (1995).
vii) Integration of social development issues in market economies.
viii) Family policies – gender and generation perspectives towards the United Nations International Year of the Family (1994).
ix) Adoption of the Report of the Conference.
x) Closing of the Conference.

E. Rules of Procedure

31. Recognizing its regional character, the Conference decided to adopt the Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe to guide the conduct of its proceedings.

F. Documentation

32. The documents before the Conference are listed in Annex II to this report.

G. Adoption of the Report and Closure of the Conference

33. The Conference considered its report, which included conclusions and recommendations, at its 7th and closing session, on 2 July 1993. The draft report, contained in documents BRAT/CONMIN/FR. 1-4, was adopted without a vote.

34. At the same session, the Conference had before it draft conclusions and recommendations as submitted by the Committee of the Whole. They were also adopted without a vote, following their introduction by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

35. On behalf of the heads of delegations, Mr Michael Woods, Minister of Social Affairs of Ireland expressed a vote of thanks to the Government of the Slovak Republic, in particular to the host, Ms Olga Keltosova, Minister for Labour, Social Affairs and the Family. A vote of thanks was also expressed to the very important work of the Committee of the Whole for its conclusions and recommendations under the excellent chairmanship of Mr Pierre Dionne, delegate from Canada. The Conference also expressed its warm gratitude and profound appreciation to the people and the Government of the Slovak Republic for the enormous effort contributed to the organization of the Conference and the generous hospitality to host it. The participants agreed that the Conference constituted another important step forward in integrating the all-European efforts towards a

civil society, based on respect of human rights and social justice. Mr Woods mentioned the consensus that the Conference had been useful in forging progress in the topics under discussion and the general view that a forum such as the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs was and should continue to be an important vehicle for regional cooperation, dialogue and problem-solving.

36. The Conference expressed its special appreciation to the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, affiliated to the United Nations, for its outstanding substantive contribution to its deliberations, particularly in the form of a high-quality Report on *Welfare in a Civil Society*.

37. The Conference invited the Government of the Slovak Republic to transmit its present report, together with the Report on *Welfare in a Civil Society*, to the United Nations Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development.

38. In the closing address of the Conference, the Minister for Labour, Social Affairs and the Family of the Slovak Republic, Ms Olga Keltosova, expressed the strong conviction that the Conference was a useful mechanism for regional cooperation on social issues and welcomed the formalization of an active role for the Bureau of the Bratislava Conference of Ministers in the follow-up process. She recommended that this role should be exercised vigorously with a view to identifying, at an early stage, a host country for the next meeting of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs.

V. SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS OF ITEMS:

(6) SOCIAL POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN REGION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SOCIAL WELFARE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES AND THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (1995)

(7) INTEGRATION OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES IN MARKET ECONOMIES

(8) FAMILY POLICIES - GENDER AND GENERATION PERSPECTIVES TOWARDS THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY (1994)

39. The general debate was held jointly on the three substantive agenda items. It was facilitated by the main Report submitted to the Conference by the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, entitled *Welfare in a Civil Society*, the national papers submitted by the participating governments and the background documentation provided by the United Nations.

40. The main Report for the Conference was introduced by the Executive Director of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. The European Centre had been mandated to produce this Report which was to serve as a basis for discussion at the Conference. The Director hoped that the Report would provide a common frame of reference necessary to reach a broad consensus on policy priorities, conclusions and recommendations, and to eventually develop a U.N.-European perspective for the World Summit for Social Development, in 1995.

41. The Director further singled out five structural changes which represented major policy challenges. Firstly, the danger of gradually moving towards a deeply segregated "four-fourth-society" composed of a shrinking and minority core of full-time, highly skilled and socially well protected employees and a growing periphery made up of people who in terms of qualifications, job security, pay and social benefits constituted a marginal labour force or because of long-term unemployment were trapped in outright poverty. If current trends from the 1970s to the early 1990s continued for about two more generations, unemployment rates would be around 25% and another quarter of the adult population in working age would find casual or part-time employment only. Secondly, the social costs of unemployment and poverty in terms of ill health, sub-

stance abuse, violence, organized crime, and various forms of "de-civilization", as well as in terms of costly dependency on social assistance, could no longer be discounted. Thirdly, an increasing questioning of social welfare policies in many areas due to obvious ineffectiveness or counter-intentional developments such as steep increases in homelessness; while great inter-country differences between societies of otherwise equal development showed that politics still mattered greatly for the individual risks such as unemployment, poverty and disease. Fourthly, the fact that Europe has become the world's main migration continent and multi-ethnic melting pot because of people moving East-West and South-North in search of economic betterment or protection from violence and persecution. At the same time, policies, institutions and countries' self-image had not kept pace with those changing realities. Overt hostility against immigrant minorities gaining ground in some countries was also reflecting the social exclusion and marginalization of domestic "losing classes". Fifth, populations in most of the region were ageing due to decreasing fertility and increasing longevity. Together with a radical reduction of the working life period by a compression of work into the middle years of life, because of later entry into the world of work and in particular ever earlier retirement, the existing generation contract could not be upheld and must be fundamentally redefined.

42. The Director of the European Centre recalled that since the previous Conference, most welfare states in the Western parts of the region had to face limits and began to rethink their welfare systems giving way to more realistic and pragmatic views, in particular to the recognition that assuming greater private responsibility was indispensable for welfare. This signified private action including non-commercial activities such as collective self-help, volunteering, non-governmental and non-profit organizations – a third sector beyond state and markets – in short, the "civil society".

43. The speaker stated further that a new consensus on welfare and social development seemed to be emerging. The "Welfare State" was being replaced by a "Welfare Society", where welfare was seen as the result of complex interactions between the state, markets, voluntary and other

actors of civil society; welfare was not a minority concern such as "poor relief", but an encompassing, comprehensive and universal policy concern; welfare must be preventive and developmental; human development required an integration of economic and social policies; effective social policy must concentrate on a few priority issues in a mid- to long-term perspective; effective social policy required defining operational targets, concrete proposals for action-oriented plans and programmes, and a continuous monitoring of social trends and developments; human development and social integration required economic growth; spending priorities should be redirected towards investments with high social return and multiplier effects, such as health promotion, drug and crime prevention, support for informal care work, for non-profit organizations and volunteers, equalizing of gender opportunities and elimination of all forms of discrimination – which could achieve more social development and more human value for money; and finally, rigorous evaluation, reorganization, innovation, and organizational learning must become permanent. He proposed a 0.1%-"institutional intelligence" quota to systematically assess social policies in order to rationalize public spending, not to cut welfare entitlements.

A. Issues and Priorities

44. In the discussion of Agenda Items 6 and 7, speakers raised a broad range of issues addressed in the context of the Guiding Principles or in the various documents and fora related to the World Summit for Social Development. Key areas of concern included, but were not limited by: poverty; unemployment; social exclusion; recession; economic restructuring; migration; gender issues; the situation of children; families; population growth and demographic change; crime and substance abuse; education, health and shelter; civil strife and societies in transition. Specific observations were also made concerning the future and current relevance of both the Guiding Principles and the World Summit for Social Development to social policy in the countries of the region.

45. Many delegations referred to the problems caused by migration which was described as a clear example of the need for international cooperation on social issues. It was suggested that the increase in migration movements called not only for a strengthening of cooperation between the countries of the region but also for cooperation between the public and the private sectors in order to minimize the social costs for the people involved. Some delegates underlined the necessity that migrants should be specially assisted.

46. Referring to problems caused by large-scale migration, some delegates pointed to the fact that after having been for many years exporters of labour to the highly industrialized countries, they have recently become receiving countries because of strife, turbulence and ethnic persecution in their subregion. Struggling themselves with economic and social problems, they find it most difficult to cope with these migration flows.

47. Delegates of countries which still provide migrant labour indicated that receiving countries should be more generous in granting civil, cultural and political rights to immigrants, including the right to vote and be elected at the communal and enterprise levels. Delegates of countries receiving migrants agreed that while for a long time migration tended to be regarded as a temporary problem, this was no longer the case. Although national policies, finances, institutions and services had to be geared to the needs of newcomers, the problem could only find a solution when approached and discussed at the international level with frankness and openness.

48. The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) drew attention to the present world situation in which violence and old and often suppressed hostilities were being unleashed. One of the consequences are 18.5 million refugees of whom only a fraction were found in Europe, and who faced unspeakable misery and sufferings, in particular the main victims – women, children, old people and the ill and disabled. Their numbers were rising and countries must appreciate the tremendous needs of those who were forced to leave their

homes. This responsibility could not be borne exclusively by those who had the least capacity to carry it, as it was frequently the case, but needed to be shared equally, particularly by those who were blessed by greater resources. Instead of seeing this assistance as philantropy and humanitarianism, countries should consider it as a valuable investment in the future and as an effort towards peace. Yet, granting asylum to refugees should go beyond mere tolerance but provide them with human conditions and basic rights to enable them to heal the trauma and to restore their capacity to take charge of their lives.

49. Most delegations stressed problems caused by the worldwide occurrence of poverty and the need to pay priority attention to the needs of vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and the disabled. Many delegates expressed support for the goal of poverty eradication and for its inclusion in the World Summit discussions. Some delegates emphasized the destabilizing effects of widespread poverty – those for individual countries and the region as a whole. In this connection, the link between poverty and migration was emphasized, as was the connection between poverty and the limits on social and economic development resulting from the exclusion of poor persons from full participation in society. Several delegations underlined that only a fair distribution of societal resources could support the process of sustainable development. The representative of the International Council of Social Welfare (ICSW) pointed to a global NGO-conference on the fight against poverty to be held in 1994 in Finland as part of preparations for the World Summit for Social Development.

50. The persistent problem of unemployment throughout the region of Europe was identified by most speakers as a priority issue for social policy in the European region. Some delegates described a balanced response as consisting of unemployment insurance, on the one side, and measures aimed at reintegrating the unemployed as early as possible into the labour market by training and requalification programmes, on the other. The need for preventative approaches was also stressed including investments in education and sustainable development practices. One del-

egate drew attention to the fact that not only were sufficient jobs not being created but jobs continued to be destroyed, a fact which was causing increased waves of unemployment and creating deeply segregated societies. The representative of UNECE stressed the necessity of measures such as job-sharing, reforms in unemployment insurance systems, training and retraining, support for small and medium-size enterprises and proposed a combined strategy of economic policies, including monetary and fiscal discipline, and employment policies. This should also entail new methodological approaches with an improved interface between macroeconomic analyses and management at the micro-level. Some delegates underlined the need for the retraining of youth, particularly in countries undergoing transition to market economies.

51. Many speakers stressed the priority that should be given to the situation of women, and the need for progressive measures to reduce gender-based inequalities in society. Particular issues included: the situation of female single parents; recognition of non-paid work in households; equality of access to labour market opportunities and education; measures to increase labour market participation and the disproportionately high risk of poverty for females. Several delegates referred to the economic responsibility carried out by women. In times of limitation of welfare, women ran the highest risk of being the main losers. Women's issues were also a recurrent theme in the statements on family. One delegate stressed that the realization of gender equality in the family was an international standard in family policies.

52. Many delegates expressed concern at the extent of poverty among children and described national programmes designed to meet these and other issues affecting this group. There was a broad recognition of the importance of social policy investments in children including those designed to address poverty, improve education and health, and deal effectively with violations of children's rights. Several delegates underlined the legal and moral obligation to keep children's needs in focus. One of the delegates referred to special facilities in his country allowing adoption of children from disintegrated families.

53. To many delegations, the situation of the elderly constituted a major concern. One delegate reported about forthcoming legislation to improve the labour market opportunities of the elderly while others expressed the need for long-term strategies to provide continuous training for employed persons throughout their entire working life. Ageing often went hand in hand with lowering living standards and poverty. Some delegates emphazised the need of upgrading the discussion about measures preventing poverty also for the World Summit. With respect to pensions for the elderly, delegates pointed to the need of revision of the financing system or of the benefit levels. It was also stressed to favour policies which promote the care of the elderly within their families. One delegate underlined that elderly workers were often affected by the influx of migrant labour and therefore legislation in his country linked the employment of migrants to non-dismissal protection for elderly employees. National discussions on legislative provisions for long-term care insurance were reported from several countries which would cover the risk of a need for permanent nursing care within the framework of the statutory Health Insurance.

54. Many speakers noted the importance of taking a broad view of well-being, encompassing the full participation of citizens in society. In this connection, several speakers indicated that large and growing segments of society were excluded from full participation through poverty, unemployment, discrimination, education or other barriers. The question of social exclusion was echoed by other speakers in reference to the situation of immigrants, where concrete national efforts were required to shape pluralist, multicultural societies.

55. Particular attention was given by several delegates to the situation of persons with disabilities and to the need for relevant prevention and rehabilitation measures, and to opportunities for persons to exercise their right of full participation in society.

56. The problem of alcohol and drug addiction was also stressed as a major task for social policies which should be oriented towards a Europe free of drugs, in consensus with the European Alcohol Action Plan launched by the WHO.

57. Several delegations voiced concern over the growing problem of non-participation of sections of the population living on various social security grants. While the state's social safety net function was certainly essential, it should be regarded, as one delegate put it, as a "trampoline rather than as a fishing net from where there is no escape". The representative of the UNECE drew attention to the need of maintaining or restoring the safety net particularly for those hardest hit by economic recession, restructuring, transition to market economies or other such problems.

58. When considering problems caused by population growth, one delegate explained that the problem would not be the size of the population in itself but rather its growth rate when it outstripped available resources, particularly ecological ones. The delegate stressed that the imbalances between the population and the resource constraint were requiring primary attention.

59. The representative of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights (UNCHR) recalled the developments that have occurred in the field of human rights at the international level in terms of adoption of conventions, creation of mechanisms and implementation of procedures. He referred in particular to the World Conference on Human Rights held in June 1993 (Vienna), in order to review and assess the progress made since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was the source of inspiration and basis for the United Nations to elaborate human rights standards for civil, political, economic and social rights. At this World Conference, representatives of more than 170 Member States adopted a Declaration containing over 30 human rights principles and a Programme of Action most of which were directly related to concerns of the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs. In this connection, the Centre's "Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Programme in the Field of Human Rights" were outlined, including assistance for the inclusion of human rights norms in national constitutions and legislation, training of personnel engaged in the administration of justice and of international experts in the human rights field.

B. Options and Approaches

60. Since the adoption of the Guiding Principles and the last meeting of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs and in light of emerging social, economic and political issues in the region, new discourses and concepts have appeared in the field of social welfare. First, the notion of civil society in its various connotations as described in the Report "Welfare in a Civil Society" has become a key concept in discussions concerning the reformulation of social welfare discourse. Second, the concept of security, as advocated by the "Human Development Report 1993", published by the UNDP, which conveyed the growing awareness that the formulation of social policies is the responsibility not only of the individual state but also that of the international community; a message similarly reinforced in "Welfare in a Civil Society". The concept of security thus was expanded to stress people's security through human development, food, employment and environmental security. This change in the notion of security lent particular relevance to the concept of subsidiarity already stressed in the Guiding Principles. The principle of subsidiarity was reported to have played an important role in the design of social policy in several European countries. The fourth core concept stressed at the Conference was the emphasis placed on a coherent, integrated and comprehensive approach to welfare issues. Fifth, many delegations stressed the concept of social welfare in terms of human resource development investments required to offset negative socio-economic trends, to establish a foundation for future development and to reinforce the concept of societal development as a people-centred process. Sixth, the concept of social welfare as an investment in human resource development was complemented by a broad use of the concepts of human and social cost to describe the consequences of inadequate measures, social problems or non-response. In this usage, the concept of cost was inverted from the traditional perception of social welfare as a drain on societal resources. These new key concepts appeared recurrent in describing the foundation of reform in the social systems in countries of the region, including those in transition to a market economy.

61. Referring to the future of the Welfare State, several delegates felt that a complete rethinking was required. It would be a mistake to think that a crumbling of ideologies had taken place only in Central and Eastern Europe – many tenets that had been held with regard to the welfare state in Western Europe and North America have also broken down. New approaches were therefore needed which were best developed in an atmosphere of mutual listening and cooperation in conferences and gatherings such as this one.

62. Most delegates reaffirmed the need for reform, adoption and strengthening of social security measures in national situations of stress, emanating from social, economic or political reform, structural adjustment or recession. Some delegates noted the need to upgrade the profile of social welfare policies in the broader context of the socio-economic development. Another stressed that a good economic policy was not tantamount to a good social policy.

63. Many delegations referring to the need for reforms underlined that due to the essential political nature of the reforms, results would often be considered difficult to attain and required a change in the mentality of the people. Therefore, reform required a collective effort of the public and private sectors to educate a new generation as well as the necessity to rethink the role of government. Some delegates pointed to the political difficulty of the huge gap between the expectations of the people and the economic reality of the countries, particularly those in transition to market economy.

64. Some delegations pointed to the fact that today in Europe the discussion was not about the necessity of social security systems but rather how to best organize them in view of increasing demands, on the one hand, and fiscal constraints affecting all countries, on the other.

65. The delegate of OECD referred to the need to reconcile social programmes as part of the general budget. The delegate explained that the social insurance system could not provide solutions for economic problems. It would only distort social policies when budgetary decisions were automatically given priority, and when instruments for social protection such as pension schemes were used to provide short-term, symptomatic

relief from structural problems that would still require substantial, long-term solutions. In such situations, the strength of social protection was weakened and basic societal problems were avoided. In the same vein, one speaker noted that social welfare policy had also served to protect policy-makers from addressing the root causes of many social issues.

66. Referring to the severe economic recession, several countries wished to have on record that their highly developed social security systems were in no way the reason for this crisis. On the contrary, the steady improvement of social security should be seen as an investment in the functioning of society and in economic life rather than as an encumbrance. This does not make a complete reappraisal of all benefit schemes unnecessary, both of their financing and the level of support they provided. In any case, coverage of the entire population had to be maintained. Since practically all countries of the region were facing problems of financing the system, an exchange of ideas and experiences in this field would seem most useful.

67. Several delegations described the consequences of social change in terms of the associated social and human costs, on the one hand, and in terms of the human resource development investments required to minimize the negative effects of societal change and establish a foundation for future development, on the other. Such investments were described as essential to the development of a preventative approach to social problems, the reduction of human costs and the process of sustainable development.

68. Several delegates referred, in particular, to common problems of countries in transition which are highlighting the need to cooperate with neighbouring states and with other countries of the region. It was emphazised that when embarking on social reform in these countries, structures had to be build which did not exist before. Thus it was important to involve the people at all levels of society to ensure broad commitment to the goals and structure of reform as well as informed consent about the consequences of reform.

69. Although in all of the countries in this subregion blueprints were being designed for a comprehensive reform of the social security system which

was implemented very gradually, some countries had at present to limit themselves to assist selected target groups such as the poorest, families, old and disabled people, and at a minimum level, to prevent further deterioration of the social infrastructure.

70. Several delegates from countries in transition to market economies agreed on the importance of separation of the social insurance system from the state budget. This also paved the way to the autonomous and democratic administration in the financing of an insurance system through an independent social insurance fund. Thus, a clear separation would be introduced between benefits based on employment, such as unemployment insurance, and those of a non-economic nature, such as child benefits and family allowances. One delegate stressed the necessity of financing these social security measures independently from the national budgets and another explained the funding of the national pension system as being alimented by a credit and financial system independent from the state.

71. Relying on the basic consensus about the organization of a social framework within a free market economy, several delegates pointed either to the achievements in social security legislation or to the newly created legislation and their implementation process, particularly in the fields of unemployment insurance, pensions for the elderly and the disabled and family allowances.

72. One delegate called for greater coherence and integration of social, health, labour market and economic policies and greater participation within and between different levels of actors in these fields. This would also require the modernization of social security institutions and the fostering of partnership between the institutions as well as those whose interests were at stake.

73. Some delegations pointed to a shift in the approach to income security towards a notion of social investment as a preventive measure rather than on the basis of remedial actions. Several delegations focused attention on the task of social security to avoid disintegrating forces by facilitating self-help and decreasing dependencies of the individual, and inte-

grating groups so far excluded from society such as the disabled or poor people. It was suggested that social security should target the most needy and avoid leakages to those who were better off.

74. Several delegations agreed on the need to make public service structures more open and above all more service-oriented. This might not necessarily reduce the overall role of the state but focus its attention on other targets such as quality control of services, and to develop mandatory services on a local level in conjunction with the voluntary sector, thus furthering the latter's complementary role with the help of the state by anchoring this role, as in one country, through legislation.

75. Most speakers emphazised the important role played by non-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies in the provision of social services and support for vulnerable groups. Avenues were thought to be needed to strengthen and improve the role of such organizations, and to enhance the participation of client groups in services to benefit them. A related concern was the process of decentralizing services and the process of involving partners at the local level, particularly in those societies evolving from highly centralized administrative systems. The representative of ICSW stressed the importance of the NGOs in the preparation and conduction of the World Summit for Social Development.

76. The representative of the International Labour Office (ILO) pointed out that many of the issues raised at this Conference as well as in the background document were within the mandate of his organization and consequently dealt with on a tripartite basis. He said that experience showed that adequate social protections enlarge and strengthen the labour force of a country, add to its capacity to promote growth and to accept change, and underpin a greater degree of political and social stability. Drawing attention to the function of the International Labour Office to serve as a platform for the exchange of information and experience in the labour and social fields, he pointed to the expert and technical meetings organized by the ILO at regional and subregional levels on topics such as tripartism, labour migration, new technologies, training, employment policies and social security issues.

C. Mechanisms and Follow-up

77. Making special reference to the World Social Summit of 1995, one delegate stressed the importance of regarding the Summit as a continuum within which the main issues – that is the alleviation of poverty, unemployment and social integration – should be given priority. He felt that the problem of exclusion should constitute the core issue of the Summit since all countries were confronted with this problem. Effective action requires the mobilization of all forces of society, the public sector as well as the non-governmental private sector. In his country, a special independent steering group was being created in preparation for the Summit. He further stressed the importance of regional cooperation for this purpose, in particular in view of the fact that the European region is weaker in its representation and not as advanced in defining its goals as other U.N. regions seemed to be.

78. The need for stronger cooperation in terms of exchange of experiences was stressed. Some delegations supported the idea of creating a central system of monitoring social developments and of studying national differences in standards and instruments of social policies. The deep interrelationship of national and international socio-economic developments and tendencies underscored a general view that a stronger international cooperation was needed, particularly within the European region. There was also a general appreciation of the international character of many current social issues and the value of action at the regional level in seeking out solutions to those problems while several speakers noted that no single, ideal solution would account for the variety of specific situations in different countries. Most speakers indicated that there was great value in ongoing exchange, dialogue and sharing of expertise, information and research to promote problem-solving at all levels.

79. Several delegates noted that the "Guiding Principles for Social Developmental Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future", adopted by the United Nations in 1987, should continue to be a basic document for the involvement of the United Nations in the social field

but they should be further elaborated to meet the new and emerging problems. This suggestion was underscored by the tremendous changes in the region, combined with those in the global economic situation and in emerging concepts of the role of governments in social welfare.

80. Some delegations underlined the importance of adhering to international agreements in the social fields. Particular mention was made of the European instruments and of the various international covenants and conventions on human rights, notably the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

81. Several delegations referred to the ongoing cooperation in the social field with other organizations like the ILO, WHO and the World Bank. Mention was made of other regional bodies and the need to avoid duplication of work. Some delegations expressed the wish to strengthen the work of the ECE in the social sector through improved links of the ECE with other institutions such as the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. The representative of the ECE pointed to the progress made at the Conference of European Statisticians in developing a number of new coordinated activities. Together with EUROSTAT, the ECE elaborates a conceptual foundation for statistics on poverty and socio-economic indicators, such as living standards, use of time, and informal economy.

82. In discussing Agenda Item 8, many delegations described measures that were being undertaken to give full national effect to the International Year of the Family, including the establishment of coordinating mechanisms and specific plans of action. Some delegates stressed the importance of the state giving support to the basic social and cultural functions of the family as well as to the needs of its members in all phases of the life cycle.

83. Priorities identified for the International Year of the Family included: gender issues in families and society; increased violence in families; cross-sectoral approaches to family issues; balancing of work and family responsibilities; social justice; situation of children in families; parental leave. Related issues included the distinction between policies for fami-

lies and family policies, the references to family in existing international human rights and social policy instruments; and family policy as a political field in its own right. Many delegations agreed that the International Year of the Family provided a stimulus for activities in this field in their respective countries. To mark this year, some countries were planning to launch programmes and activities to be carried out mainly through the collaboration of non-governmental organizations.

84. Special attention was given by all delegates to the situation and importance of families, particularly in view of the International Year of the Family. Some delegates pointed to the changing structure and functions of families. This requires different approaches in social policies than in the past. Furthermore, family policies should be oriented towards a primary goal of securing the income of poor families and empowering them to improve their material well-being. Two delegates pointed to the great importance their countries were giving to a cross-sectoral approach to family policies. Family policies should aim at avoiding the marginalization of people with children and at overcoming the discrepancies between unpaid work in the family and labour market employment.

85. A number of delegates addressed the transformations affecting the family although the extent as well as patterns of change tended to vary between subregions, for example, between Northern Europe, the United States and Southern and Eastern Europe. Migration, and, even more so, urbanization have created new ways and lifestyles. The extended family is becoming rarer; the nuclear family is emerging as the predominant pattern. The number of lone-parent families is growing. These changes have made the family more vulnerable and more dependent on society's support for care of children and elderly members.

86. Even societies with strong family traditions came under increasing economic and social pressures, especially with the recent growth of unemployment which carries the danger of social deprivation. These developments have made the family more vulnerable and more dependent on society's support for the care of children who need more than just a secure environment to be able, in turn, to provide a stable and peaceful

society. These challenges to family life and the supports needed are therefore issues which must be urgently considered by all countries in the region. The designation by the United Nations of 1994 as the International Year of the Family represents an opportunity to address these issues.

87. Promoting partnership between men and women was identified as a priority policy concern notably in respect to the distribution of responsibilities and labour in families. In this connection, support was given by some delegates to the introduction or improvement of parental or family leave provisions. One delegate referred to newly created national family legislation introducing social benefits in the case of maternity, of child care in general and child care for children with disabilities and for children affected by HIV/AIDS. One speaker stressed the need to strengthen the notion of the family as an institution rather than fragmenting the family by focusing on the needs of individuals without appropriate attention to familial situations.

88. As some delegates reported, the female labour force population has increased spectacularly in a number of countries, while in others this process is slower but certainly noticeable. Yet in all countries, as one delegate underlined, the question of combining family responsibilities with a career and employment in general has become acute, as more women enter the labour market. These developments have had – and are still having – decisive effects on the role of women in society as well as on the traditional roles of men in relation to women. Women, however, still carried the main burden of tasks – of work outside the home, of child care and of care of the elderly – until men and women would equally share the work. One speaker suggested that networks would have to be established through which professional care – with the state providing funds – and voluntary care could be provided.

89. The combination of paid and unpaid work would prove to be one of the challenges of the coming century all the more as working time tended to be lessening and free time growing. Thus, from one country government programmes were reported that assisted communities to maximize the benefits from the voluntary activities undertaken in their areas, for

example, by giving grants to women's self-development and skill-building projects, in particular for women in disadvantaged communities.

90. As some delegates pointed out, while female labour participation was increasing in a number of countries, there were many women who were engaged full-time in home duties by their own choice, an option which had to be fully recognized as part of society's support for the family. As one delegate stressed, what parents most need were options in relation to the home and the workplace. Such options need to regard the protection of the mother in terms of no loss of pension for periods out of the workforce and no loss of social insurance entitlements. Other workforce options should include a variety of different working time arrangements such as part-time working, job-sharing and parental leave.

91. Some delegates felt that it would seem desirable to redefine social policies in terms of the relationship between the generations. In view of the high burden many families had to carry, the allocation of various benefits would need to be reassessed in order to achieve a better balance between generations. Examples given included the alleviation of tax burdens, expanding the structure of assistance for children and the day care system, and increasing help to the weakest family members such as women being heads of households.

92. One delegate referred to the special legislation in his country according to which social support was based on individual insurance rather than on family-based insurance. Through separate taxation and special matrimonial legislation, the economic independence of adults as individuals was strengthened, leading to a transformation of the traditional roles of men and women. As a consequence, child care facilities had to be expanded.

93. The Coordinator of the International Year of the Family described the role of families as social policy actors and providers of support for family members, emphasizing their particular importance to vulnerable members of society. He stressed the diversity of family forms and the changing structure and functions of families within and between nations of the region. The Year was described as a starting point for action, rather than

as an event complete in itself, and as a tool for enhancing progress in existing social policy priorities.

94. In particular, the Year was committed to strengthening the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. Referring to the concluded World Conference on Human Rights, he reported an increasing recognition and consensus that respect for human rights must be learned and practised in families, before they can be embedded in society at large. He described progress made in the preparatory process for the Year including: publications of the IYF secretariat; the formation of national coordinating bodies in over 100 countries; regional preparatory meetings for the IYF in Tunisia, Malta, China and Colombia for all regions of the world; the elaboration of national plans of action and the involvement of people at the grass-roots level. In this connection, he appealed to governments to give their full support to the World NGO Forum to be held on the IYF in November, 1993, and to facilitate the participation of non-governmental organizations in this launching event.

95. He offered thanks to those countries that had provided generous in-kind and financial support for the work of the IYF secretariat, commended those that had established coordinating structures and plans of action, and invited others to join in the global preparation for and observance of, the International Year of the Family.

ANNEXES

Annex I: List of Participants

States of the UN-European Region

State and names:	Title and address of Head of Delegation:
ALBANIA Ms Shehi Dashamir	Minister of Labour, Social Assistance and Emigration Tirana, Albania phone: 28490 fax: 28340
ANDORRA Ms Rossa Torres Bibiana	Minister of Social Welfare, Health and Labour C/Prat de la Creu 62-64 Andorra la Vella phone: 0034 738 29345 fax: 0034 738 61933
Ms Ros Pascuet Francesca Mr Sansa Rene Monserrat	
AUSTRIA Ms Rauch-Kallat Maria	Federal Minister for Environment, Youth and Family Radetzkystr. 2, Vienna A-1030 Austria phone: 53 51178

Mr Wotava Richard
Ms Dorfmeister Renate
Mr Jager Ewald
Mr Rosenmayer Ronald
Ms Sutter-Holzer Andrea
Mr Unger Johann

BELARUS

Ms Dargel Olga Bronislavovna
Minister of Social Affairs
Minsk 220010
Sovetskaja 9
Belarus
phone: 29 61 82

Ms Yasnovskaya Nataliya Evgenevna
Mr Kozel Alexandr Grigorjevich

BELGIUM

Ms Willame Elise
Directeur d'administration
Ministère de la Prévoyance sociale
3C rue de la Vièrge Noire
1000 Bruxelles, Belgium
phone: 00322 509 82 75
fax: 00322 509 85 33

CANADA

Mr Dionne Pierre
Director General
International Social Development,
Health and Welfare Canada
Jeanne Mance Bldg. 956, Ottawa
Ontario, K1A OK9, Canada
phone: 001 613 957 7300
fax: 001 613 952 7417

CROATIA

Mr Simunovic Ivan — Deputy Minister
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
Prisavlje 14
41000 Zagreb, Croatia
phone: 631 337, 613 069
fax: 613 593

Mr Ujakovic Ivan

CZECH REPUBLIC

Mr Vodicka Jindrich — Minister of Labour and Social Affairs
Na Poricnim pravu 1
128 00 Praha 2, Czech Republic
phone: 02 295 024
fax: 02 299 832

Mr Kos Karel
Ms Malisova Zora
Mr Prusa Ladislav
Mr Uchytil Ales

DENMARK

Mr Jorgensen Ole Director — Ministry of Social Affairs
Slotholms 6
DK 1216 Gade København K
Denmark
phone: 0045 33 92 33 77
fax: 0045 33 93 25 18

ESTONIA

Mr Marju Lauristin — Minister of Social Affairs
Tallin EE 0104
Gonsiori 29, Estonia
phone: 007 0142 42 35 50
fax: 007 0142 44 08 69

FINLAND

Mr Valimaki Kari

Deputy Head of Department
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
P.O.BOX 267
00171 Helsinki, Finland
phone: 00 358 0 1603 831
fax: 00 358 0 1603 826

Ms Vuorento Ritva

FRANCE

Mr Robert Jacques

Director
Ministère des Affaires Sociales
Divisions Relations Internationales
8, Avenue de Segur
75007 Paris
France
phone: 40567382
fax: 40567243

Mr Perraude Remy

GERMANY

Mr Hasinger Albrecht

Secretary of State
Bundesministerium fur Familie
und Senioren
Godesberger Allee 140
5300 Bonn 2, Germany
phone: 306/2200
fax: 306/2259

Mr Lutz Claus
Mr Berger Volker
Mr Heigenhauser Franz
Mr Pritzer Rainer

HOLY SEE
Mr Coppa Giovanni

Apostolic Nuncio
to the Slovak Republic
Apostolska Nunciatura
Vorsilska 12, 110 00 Praha 1
Czech Republic
phone: 02 20 37 67
fax: 02 20 63 07

Mr Glasa Jozef
Mr Matulnik Jozef
Mr Mikolasek Milan
Mr Rakus Alois

HUNGARY
Mr Surjan Laszlo

Minister of Welfare of the
Republic of Hungary
Arany Janos u. 6-8
H-1051 Budapest
Hungary
phone: 361/111-2616
fax: 361/153-4955

Mr Kakuszi Istvan
Mr Meszaros Jozsef
Ms Szemes Zsuzsanna

ICELAND
Ms Sigurdardottir Johana

Minister of Social Affairs
Hatnarhisinu
Tryggvagotu, 101 Reykjavik
Iceland
phone: 354-1-609106
fax: 354-1-24804

Mr Gudbrandsson Bragi

IRELAND

Mr Woods Michael T.D.

Minister for Social Welfare
Office of the Minister
Aras Mhic Dhiarmada
Store Street
Dublin 1
Ireland
phone: (01) 704 37 88
fax: (01) 704 38 69

Mr Flynn Brian
Ms Hazlett Catherine

ISRAEL

Mr Zvi Peer

First Secretary
Embassy of Israel
Anton Frankgasse 20
1180 Vienna, Austria
phone: 470 4741-5
fax: 470 4746

ITALY

Ms Contri Fernanda

Minister for Social Affairs
and Immigration
Via Barberini, 47
00187 Roma
Italy
phone: 4811 475 - 296
fax: 4811 322

Ms Di Gennaro Marta
Mr Pedrazzoli Giovanni
Ms Puglisi Maria Letizia
Ms Retacchi Adriana

LATVIA

Mr Makarovs Vladimirs	Director Ministry of Welfare, Health and Labour of Latvia 25, Baznicas Street, Riga LV-1305 LATVIA phone: 286 717 fax: 217 844

MALTA

Mr Zammit-Montebello Alfred	Director General Ministry for Home Affairs and Social Development St. Venera, Malta phone: 00356 222719 fax: 00356 242707
Mr Cassar Joseph	

NETHERLANDS

Mr Richelle Koos	Director General Ministry of Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs P.O.BOX 3007 2280 MJ Rijswijk Netherlands phone: 0031 703405600 fax: 0031 703405494
Mr Van Rienen Gerard	

NORWAY

Ms Knudsen Grete	Minister of Social Affairs Oslo, Norway phone: 222 715 66 92 fax: 222 712 65 52
Mr Brofoss Knut	
Mr Enger Audhild Nydal	

POLAND

Ms Wiktorow Alexandra	Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy Republic of Poland Nowogrodzka 1/3 Warszawa, Poland phone: 21 60 63 fax: 29 67 50
Mr Korolec Jerzy	
Mr Matela Ireneusz	
Mr Markowski Radoslaw	

ROMANIA

Mr Csorvasi Andor	Director Generale Ministère du Travail et de la Protection Sociale 2, rue Dem.I.Dobrescu, sect.1 Bucharest, Romania phone: 40 1 615 8609 fax: 40 1 312 5268
Mr Botezatu Sorin	

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Ms Pamfilova Ella	Minister of Social Affairs Slavjanskaja sq, 4 103727 Moscow Russian Federation phone: 9255922 fax: 9243690
Mr Tkacenko.Viktor Fjodorovic	
Mr Avramenko Boris Stepanovic	
Mr Belakov Michael Petrovic	
Ms Kirienko Zoja Jevgenjevna	
Mr Turbin Boris Sergejevic	

SAN MARINO

Mr Cecchetti Domenico

Coordinatore
Dipartimento Settori
Produttivi e Lavoro
Piazza della Liberta n. 2
47031-Repubblica di San Marino
phone: 39549/88 2320
fax: 39549/88 2535

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Ms Feltosova Olga

Minister of Labour,
SocialAffairs and Family
Spitalska 4, Bratislava
Slovak Republic
phone: 321243 321245
fax: 321258

Mr Hettes Miloslav
Mr Konecny Stanislav
Mr Lisuch Jan
Mr Masar Vladimir
Mr Minac Pavol
Mr Tkac Vojtech

SLOVENIA

Ms Jozica Puhar

Minister of Labour,
Family and Social Affairs
Levstikova 15, 61000 Ljubljana,
Slovenia
phone: 61 212 348
fax: 61 212 432

Ms Ostrman Anka

SPAIN

Mr Galan Cueli Cesar

Director General
Ministerio de Asuntos Sociales
c/Jose Abascal 39
28003 Madrid
Spain
phone: 347 7129/31

Mr Aragon Raimundo
Ms Paz Luis Thibaut

SWEDEN

Mr Ifvarsson Carl-Anders

Undersecretary of State
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs
103 33 Stockholm
Sweden
phone: 46 8 763 10 00
fax: 46 8 723 11 91

Ms Arve-Pares Birgit
Mr Lidal Bengt

SWITZERLAND

Ms Brombacher M. Verena

Vice-Director
Federal Social Insurance Office
Effingerstrasse 33, Bern
CH-3003 Switzerland
phone: 004131 61 90 46
fax: 004131 61 78 80

Mr Malherbe Cyril
Ms Nova Colette

TURKEY Mr Dincmen Ustun	Ambassador Embassy of the Republic of Turkey Bratislava, Slovak Republic phone: 320 597 fax: 312 2546
UKRAINE Mr Lubkivskij Roman	Ambassador of the Ukraine to the Slovak Republic
UNITED KINGDOM Mr Bradley Michael	Section Head Department of Social Security The Adelphi 1-11 John Adam Street London WC2N 6HT United Kingdom phone: 071 962 8519 fax: 071 962 8647
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Mr Hacker Paul	Chargé d'Affaires Embassy of the United States Hvlezdoslavovo nám. 4 Bratislava Slovak Republic phone: 42 7 330 861 fax: 42 7 335 439

Observer States

People's Republic of China	Mr Yongan Huang

United Nations System

United Nations	Mr Henryk J. Sokalski, Director Secretariat Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development Coordinator for the International Year of the Family
	Mr Albert Vinokurov Mr Eugene Rolfe Mr Robert Huber Mr Dusan Tomko
Economic Commission for Europe	Ms Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, Deputy Executive Secretary
Centre for Human Rights	Mr Jose Luis Gomez del Prado
UNHCR	Mr Oldrich Andrysek
Ms Maria Lobo	
UNDP	Mr Muzio Costante
ILO	Mr Oscar de Vries Reilingh
Ms Ulrike Beiderwellen	

UNESCO	Mr Wolfgang Tochtermann
European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (affiliated to the United Nations)	Mr Bernd Marin, Executive Director
Mr Peter Melvyn Mr Helmut Wintersberger Mr Klaus Feldmann Ms Sonja Puntscher-Riekmann Ms Veronika Diridl Mr Kapila Jayatilleke Mr Michael Eigner Mr Willem Stamatiou	

Intergovernmental Organizations

Commission of the European Communities	Mr Fabrice Ramako Jaona
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development	Mr Peter Scherer

Non-Governmental Organizations

International Council on Social Welfare	Mr Dirk Jarré
Mr. Sirpa Utriainen	

International Federation of Social Workers	Ms Eilis Walsh

Host Country Organizations

National Organizations

Biskop Office in Nitra	Mr Jan Chrizostom Korec Mr Peter Tibensky
Consultancy-psychologics Services Centre	Mr Peter Zatopek
Economic University	Ms Eva Rievajová Mr Vojtech Stanek
Protestant Church in SR	Mr Pavel Uhorskai
Sickness Insurance Fund	Mr Peter Rusiák
Confederation of Trade Unions	Mr Frantisek Kurej
Slovak Academy of Science	Ms Vilma Jurifková Ms Erika Kvapilová Mr Bronislav Lichardus
Slovak Humanitarian Council	Mr Blazej Slaby

Pension's Insurance Fund	Mr Igor Lipták
Social Care Services Centre	Ms Vlasta Klafanská
Research Institute Labour. Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic	Ms Margita Barosová Mr Rastislav Bednárik Mr Jozef Hanker
Slovak Governmental Committee for Disabled Persons	Ms Mária Orgonásová
Committee for Health and Social Affairs of National Council of Slovak Republic	Ms Gizela Tavodová Mr Bohumil Chmelík Ms Aibeková Marta

Annex II: List of Documents

- Address by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic. H.E. Mr Vladimir Meciar
- Message of the U.N. Secretary-General to the European Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs
- Opening Statement by Prof. Bernd Marin. European Centre
- Statement by Mr Johann Unger. Head of Division. Austria
- Statement by Mr Pierre Dionne. Head of Delegation. Canada
- Statement by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic. Mr Vodicka Jindrich
- Statement by Mr Kari Valimaki. Deputy Director. Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. Finland
- Statement by Mr Robert Jacques. Director. Ministère des Affaires Sociales. France
- Statement by Mr Albrecht Hasinger. State Secretary of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Address by Msgr. Giovanni Coppa. Delegate of the Holy See
- Statement by Mr László Surján. Minister of Welfare of the Republic of Hungary
- Address by Mr Michael Woods. Minister for Social Welfare of Ireland
- Statement by Mr Alfred Zammit-Montebello. Director General, Ministry for Home Affairs and Social Development. Malta
- Statement by Mr J.N.M. Richelle. Director General for Social Welfare. The Netherlands Ministry of Social Welfare. Health and Cultural Affairs
- Address by Ms Olga Keltosová. Minister of Labour. Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
- Statement by Mr Andor Csorvasi. Director General. Ministère du Travail et de la Protection Sociale. Romania
- Contribution of the Republic of Slovenia
- Statement by Mr Carl-Anders Ifvarsson. Under-Secretary of State for Social Affairs. Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. Sweden

- Statement on Family Policy by Mr Carl-Anders Ifvarsson, Under-Secretary of State for Social Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Sweden
- Statement by Mr Ustun Dincmen, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
- Statement on the World Summit for Social Development by Mr Dirk Jarré, International Council on Social Welfare
- Statement by Mr Oscar de Vries Reilingh, International Labour Office
- Statement by Mr Jose Luis Gomez del Prado, United Nations Centre for Human Rights
- Statement by Ms Marie Lobo, UNHCR